REMARKS

The foregoing amendment and the following remarks are respectfully submitted for reconsideration in lieu of the Response After Final Rejection Under 37 CFR 1.116 of October 20, 2003 to the Final Rejection of July 16, 2003 entered by the Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on December 18, 2003. In an Advisory Action mailed on November 20, 2003, the Examiner had indicated reasons for non-entry of the Response After Final Rejection.

In the Final Rejection, the Examiner has rejected claims 12, 9, 13, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior et al (US 6,349,220 B1 - filed October 27, 1998 - issued Feb. 19, 2002) in view of Moriya (GB 2 328 343 A - issued Feb. 17, 1999) and further in view of Moon et al (US 6,211,858 B1 - filed Sept. 26, 1997 - issued April 3, 2001).

The Examiner has rejected claims 10 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior et al in further view of Moriya and Moon et al as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Armstrong et al (US 5,729,219 - filed Aug. 2, 1996 - issued March 17, 1998).

The Examiner has rejected claims 17 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prior et al in further view of Moriya and Moon et al as applied to claim 12 above, and further in view of Kisaichi et al (US 5,786,776 - filed March 12, 1996 - issued July 28, 1998).

Since the Final Rejection is similar to the first Office Action, only that the Examiner's arguments are now directed towards claim 12 as the base claim,

the applicant previously focused on the Response to Arguments for claims 12 and 17.

Subsequent to the Advisory Action and the RCE, the applicant's representative, the undersigned Anthony N. Fresco, scheduled an interview with the Examiner for January 15, 2004. An "Applicant Initiated Interview Request Form" Form PTOL-413A was filed on January 12, 2004 by facsimile transmission.

In view of the Examiner's assertions with respect to claim 12 delineated in the Advisory Action, the applicant's representative identified the basis for the interview as the structural aspects of single-click and double-click language of claim 12, specifically the limitation of:

-- a processor performing processing according to a position at which, or a manner in which, said user presses said touch panel, said processing corresponding to a single—click or a double—click of a mouse.--

The applicant's representative also sought clarification regarding the Examiner's position with respect to claim 17. As required under 37 CFR 1.133(b), the applicant is hereby filing a statement of the substance of the interview.

During the interview, following clarification of the Examiner's position stated in the Advisory Action, the applicant's representative proposed to the Examiner a possible amendment to claim 12 to recite the specific actions occurring upon pressing the Accept Key once and pressing the Accept Key twice.

While no agreement was reached, the Examiner agreed that if claim 12 is subsequently amended to replace the limitation regarding the single click or double click of a mouse with more specific language, that following a further search of the

prior art failing to identify any new references, claim 12 might become allowable. The Examiner conceded that the Moon et al reference (US 6,211,858 B1 of April 3, 2001), column 5, lines 20-26, and column 7, lines 42-60, does not disclose the specific actions occurring by a single press or a double press of a touch screen.

Also during the interview, the applicant's representative clarified with the Examiner the status of claim 17. It was noted that claim 17 depends from claim 12. Therefore, if claim 12 is found to be allowable, no amendments to claim 17 are required at this time. However, claim 17 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form and by modifying the "at least one of" language to exclude the Kanjii characters, since the Examiner conceded that the Kisaichi et al reference (US 5,786,776 of July 28, 1998) does not disclose Japanese kanjii characters.

Although the applicant filed a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) to enter the unentered amendment, the Examiner advised that he can again issue a Final Rejection. Therefore, the Examiner recommended that a Supplementary Response with an amendment to claim 12 be filed no later than February 10, 2004 so that he can issue an Office Action based on the Supplementary Response rather than the now entered Response to the Final Rejection Under 37 C.F.R. §1.116. The applicant's representative is including the foregoing summary of the interview of January 15, 2004 in this Supplementary Response.

Following the interview, the applicant specifically identified page 17, line 20, to page 18, line 5; page 18, line 23, to page 19, line 1; and FIGS. 3, 8 and 9 as providing support for the amendment to claim 12 submitted herein by this

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Supplementary Response, as follows:

--a processor performing processing according to a position at which, or a manner in which, said user presses said touch panel, wherein pressing said touch panel once accepts said recognized information and pressing said touch panel twice selects the entry operation.--

No new matter has been added by the amendment to claim 12. The applicant respectfully maintains that neither Prior et al nor Moriya nor Moon et al, taken alone or in combination, disclose, teach or suggest the limitations of claim 12 of pressing said touch panel once accepts said recognized information and pressing said touch panel twice selects the entry operation. Consequently, claims 9-15, 17 and 19-20 patentably distinguish over the prior art. As a result, the applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejections of claims 9-15, 17, and 19-20.

The foregoing Remarks establish the patentable nature of all of the claims remaining in the application, i.e., claims 9-15, 17, and 19-20. No new matter has been added. Wherefore, early and favorable reconsideration and issuance of a Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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